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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In the disclosed pulse shape modulation method, an amplitude modulation gain for a reproduced signal 5 from an information recording medium that makes the jitter of the reproduced signal become the minimum is specified. Then, it is determined whether the amplitude modulation gain corresponding to the minimum jitter resides within a prescribed range. If 10 the amplitude modulation gain corresponding to the minimum jitter is outside the prescribed range, the pulse shape of the pulsed laser beam is modulated.